

DEDICATED TO OUR COMMUNITY, OUR PROFESSION AND EACH OTHER

Spring 2010

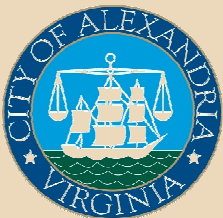


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On the web!
www.alexandriava.gov/fire



THE RESPONDER

On the Move



April 15th was a significant date for AFD personnel. Federal income tax returns were due that day; and were on many people's mind. However, it was the three page list of transfers and reassignments that was most noted by many in the Department. Forty-three employees were moved. Eight employees assumed or continued in Acting Officer positions. Some of the transfers included a shift of all East Battalion Chiefs to the West Battalion and visa-versa. In addition, the Health and Safety Acting Battalion Chief and Community Services Officer were also transferred. New faces in new places will certainly make life more interesting. Many folks will be on a new learning curve, whether it is

familiarizing them with a new first due; orienting to new equipment and apparatus; or taking on a new assignment in Fire Administration.

April 15th was the beginning of several more events in the near future. One of the major impacts the Department will face will come on September 3. On that date thirty-one new Fire-fighter – Rescuers will graduate the Professional Development Center and be assigned to one of eight fire stations. From there they will undergo additional training and evaluation of their skills and work performance. Such a large number of

recruits will pose a significant challenge to company officers as several stations will likely have more than one recruit assigned to a station on each shift.

September will also see the start up of the next EMS recruit school. The Department has been authorized to hire at least twelve new employees. The basic recruit school will run for sixteen weeks in the Fall. Upon graduation, recruits will undergo at least 600 hours of EMS preceptorship with ALS providers.

See MOVE, Page 7, Column 3

Four Safety Segments for the Fourth Month of the Year *submitted by Captain Merryman*

It's hard to keep a good person down. After two long months of recovery from surgery, I returned to full duty on March 8, 2010. Did anybody miss me? No! Did anybody realize I was gone? No! Did I miss you? Yeah!

Two months of recovery, that included no driving and limited use my left shoulder did not go well. Being tethered at home was not pleasant and having my wife drive me everywhere I needed to go, didn't help the pain. I hate that I got injured. It did me no good, it did the Department no good and it surely did not do any good related to the cost of workers

compensation. There were no winners, only losers. There's the saying that "crime doesn't pay", well I can tell you that getting injured doesn't pay either. If I wanted two months off, I would rather have those months come on my terms than the terms they came with.

I am happy to be back serving as a Shift Health & Safety Officer. Undoubtedly, I am going to be a better Shift Health & Safety Officer to those who get injured and may require surgery. Since I have been on the receiving end of surgery, I know and realize that in pursuit of our duties; injuries will happen. The lesson I learned and would like to share with you is to stay healthy and work hard to avoid injuries. When you are side lined with an injury, the game of life moves forward without you. Don't let this happen to you. Stay healthy and stay in the game!

During our first year as Shift Health & Safety Officers (SHSO) for the Department, all three Shift Safety Officer's were fortunate to find additional time to manage our work day. This time was in part due to the fine men and woman we worked and

shared the facilities with at Station 201. These fine folks allowed us 'liberal leave' from the station duties/ chores thus providing us with the additional time to build the foundation for the duties of the SHSO.



One of the many incidents the SHSO investigates monthly.

The SHSO staff owe all of the folks working at Station 201 a public "thank you." These folks welcomed, worked and tolerated our intrusion. Eventually they did get rid of us. Thank you, 201!

We are enjoying our new digs on Windsor Ave. We definitely have the right facilities to get the job done, which encompass sleeping quarters and an office in the same building. Nobody is afforded "liberal leave" from the station duties/ chores at our new facility. With limited staff in a larger facility, everyone must take part in the responsibility of station upkeep. It was good while it lasted but we all know that a clean station is a happy station!

On April 12, 2010, the Health and Safety Unit (HSU) delivered a presentation which provided a brief overview of services available from our unit to our thirty-one recruits.

One of the segments included an interactive exercise allowing each recruit a chance to act as a Safety Officer. They were pre-

sented with various scenarios which included, pictures of accidents, operational issues, and employee injuries.

While preparing for this segment, I had an opportunity to reflect on some of the Departments' vehicle accidents and the circumstances surrounding each incident. While reviewing these incidents, it provided me a better understanding of our Senior Management Team's focus on driver operator issues. It was intriguing to see the same names repeated on a number of different incidents. Folks, we must learn from our past mistakes.

However, I let my mind loose to ponder an optimistic side to this issue. I gave some deep cerebral thought as to why *some* of our Driver/Operators have limited or better yet, no accidents to speak of. On my shift alone, I can name at least five or so driver/operators that not only drive in a safe manner but also demonstrate a higher degree of safety, and operational efficiency. If we are going to reduce our cost as it relates to accidents, we have got to get inside the heads of these folks to see what characteristics motivate them to operate in a safe and more efficient manner. Only then can we hope to positively affect the actions/ behaviors of those repeat offenders. Success breeds success!

Pick a cliché; a new chapter, turning the

See Safety, Page 7, Column 1



Captain Gibbs drives off into the sunset.....seatbelt??

Spring Cleaning



Alexandria Fire Department staff gather at the end of Spring for Alexandria for a group picture.

A big thank you goes out to the following volunteers:

Cindi Lake, Scooter Slade, Jim Sullivan, Moriah Andersen, Charles Brown, Taylor Degenhardt, Sean Europe, Raymond Ginman, Daniel Gonzales, Daniel Grayson, Rachel Grayson, Daryoush Hematti, Julia Jordano, Paul Kaulfers, Michael Malec, Lisa McCarron, Joseph Payne, Joseph Porcelli, Thomas Robinson, James Ros, Megan Rowen, Donald Scott,

Spring is here and the Alexandria Fire Department was on the move. On Friday, April 30, over sixty Alexandria firefighters, paramedics, Code Administration staff, volunteers and administrative staff gathered in two neighborhoods and the Torpedo Factory for Spring for Alexandria. The Fire Department employees initiated three community projects this year. The first project focused on a neighborhood on the West end of the City. Department staff visited ten homes where they provided fire prevention check ups of each residence and a medical assessment of

occupants in each home.

On the East end of the City staff went door to door in the local neighborhoods bordering Princess Street, Patrick Street and Wythe Street. At this location staff handed out fire prevention materials; inspected and tested residential smoke detectors; and in a number of cases installed one or more detectors free of charge.

At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, twelve employees worked tirelessly to repaint the large three story support columns within the art center. Eighteen columns were painted during the course of the event.

By the end of the event, fire department staff visited 437 residences; conducted 11 home safety checks; provided 11 medical assessments; inspected and tested 94 smoke detectors and installed 39 new smoke detectors in two communities and provided desperately needed painting to support columns in one of Alexandria's popular tourist destinations.

Anthony Smalls, Christopher Smith, Stuart Smothers, Jeffery Taylor, Benjamin Thompson, Robert Townsend, Joshua Turner, Sanjay Vallyathan, Van Soktheur, Darrell White, Ryan Willis, Randolph Woodson, Mark Penn, Ashley Erhart, Eric Kreisher, Charles Tyson, Fiona Apple, Thurston McClain, Lisa Jones, Anthony Kelly, Reginald Rich, Kevin Coleman, Norman Smith, Monique Jackson, Troy Gibbs, Andrew Snead, Tony Menjivar, Dwayne Bonnette, Tony Washington, Tara Blunt, Patrick Evans, James Jackson, David Lukes, Luis Santano and Patsieann Misiti.



FF Norman Smith works up on the 3rd floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center painting columns.



Recruits speak with a resident about fire safety and offer to check her smoke detectors.

Making Buildings Safer



City staff and Mayor Euille gathered for the signing of a proclamation for Building Safety Week 2010. Pictured left to right: Director John Catlett, Deputy Building Official Gregg Fields, Mayor William Euille, Inspector Charles Cooper and Inspector Jay Patton.

The week of May 9th was proclaimed Building Safety Week. This annual event focuses public attention on the importance of the building code and the role of code enforcement professionals. The event started off with a proclamation by Mayor William Euille on April 28. In addition, the International Code Council (ICC) declared the entire month of May as Building Safety Month. The theme is "Building Safety: Commemorating a 30-year Legacy of Leadership." Which highlighted four areas during the month: Energy and Green Building; Disaster Safety and Mitigation; Fire Safety and Awareness; and Backyard Safety.

In Alexandria, Code Administration staff spent the week educating the public on the merits of building code safety as well as the administration of codes starting from the construction process through building maintenance programs. On May 15 and

16, Code Administration staff set up an information table at the Home Depot and answered the community's questions concerning permits, inspections and construction topics. The positive efforts and leadership by Code Administration staff and our jurisdictional partners provided a successful and informative week of events. ✂

Commemorating a
30-year Legacy of Leadership



BUILDING SAFETY MONTH
— INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL FOUNDATION —
MAY 2010

2010 BUILDING SAFETY MONTH CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS SPECIAL AREAS OF FOCUS

ENERGY AND GREEN BUILDINGS

Green Building is building with a conscious effort to minimize negative impacts and promote positive impacts, on both indoor and outdoor environments. Whether you're building from scratch or just looking to increase the energy efficiency of your home, there are number of things consumers can do to make their homes more sustainable and green.

DISASTER AND SAFETY

MITIGATION

There are many things consumers can do to ensure they are prepared in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

FIRE SAFETY

Each year, fires take lives and burn numerous structures resulting in mounting costs that have enormous impact on families, communities and businesses. Fires also have devastating impacts on the environment and wildlife.

BACKYARD SAFETY

As summer approaches, homeowners need to take the time to check their outdoor areas for potential safety hazards. While most people know that pools are a safety hazard for kids, there are lot more things to watch out for in your back yard, like barbecues and grills, lawn equipment and toys. Find out whether local building codes require childproof fences and gates around pools and plan accordingly.

For more information on the above topics, visit the International Code Council's Building Safety Month website at: <http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org/>

Anytime, Anywhere, We'll Be There – Celebrating National EMS Week

May was a very busy month for the Department. Besides recognizing Building Safety Week, hosting interns, participating in May Day drills and just handling the daily routine of the Fire Department we also celebrated National EMS Week. The week of May 16 thru May 22 was filled with a variety of EMS outreach and media events. Some of the highlights of this week included EMS Career Day at the Minnie Howard Campus of T.C. Williams High School on May 17. EMS personnel spoke with several classes on what it is like to be an emergency health care provider. Staff also demonstrated a variety of equipment carried on EMS apparatus to the audience.

On May 19, medics, interns and Community Services staff conducted a day long outreach effort at Ladray Highrise located at 300 Wythe Street. Staff conducted medical assessments for the senior residents as well as assisting them in completing the File for Life forms which are used to assist medics and firefighters with a patient's medical history and medications.

On May 20, INOVA Alexandria Hospital again hosted the annual EMS Breakfast for the Department's first responders. In addition to the breakfast, a number of the De-

partment's Fire and EMS personnel were recognized for their efforts which went above and beyond the normal call of duty. Award recipients were:

The "Call of the Quarter" Honorees were: Paramedic Jason Cage; paramedic Chad Shade; paramedics Seth Bowie, Johnny McCarther, Joshua Weissman, Don Scott, Richard Myers, Michael Tabb; EMS

Supervisor Bryan Meckes; medic Mark Chronister; acting EMS Supervisor Eric Warren; EMS Supervisor Martie Tuthill; FireLt. Eric Whitmore; firefighters Kenneth Salfelder, Wells Wilson, Robert Parker, Jeffrey Harrison, James Jackson, John Silverwood and Tiffany Matthews; and Fire Capt. Eric Kreisher.

Paramedic Matt Strauss was also recognized as the 2010 NOVA Regional EMS Award Winner for Outstanding Pre-Hospital Educator.

The morning event was wrapped up with an EMS in-service training program which was credited to attendees required in service hours.

Last, but not least, on May 21 and 22 Alexandria hosted the arrival of the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride. The event honors Emergency Medical Services personnel through the organization and implementation of long distance cycling events that memorialize and celebrate the lives of those who serve everyday, those who have become sick or injured while performing their duties, and those who have died in the line of duty. Over 200 cyclists arrived in Alexandria on the evening of May 21. Cyclists began from one of three locations

See EMS, Page 7, Column 2.



Paramedic Matt Strauss (center) is recognized as the 2010 NOVA Regional EMS Award Winner for Outstanding Pre-Hospital Educator. Chief Adam Thiel (left) and Assistant Chief Andrew Snead (right) present the award.

The Red Shirts Are Coming!



We are not talking about the Red Coats, nor are we speaking of those dreaded Red Shirt security officers who always bit the dust on Star Trek. Instead we are speaking about the Department's high school intern program. This year the Department hosted a record number of high school interns during the month of May and the first week of June.

realities of routine work and assignments.

At the conclusion of each intern's assignment, they were required to prepare a report on their experiences and well as describing what insight they gained from their time with the Department. These reports were

submitted and graded by their respective schools and were part of their final grades. We hope each of our interns had a rewarding and educational experience that will have a positive influence on their future life choices. 🚒

Eight students from Episcopal High School, two students from Saint Stephens and Saint Agnes High School and one student from T.C. Williams High School participated in the program. The interns were provided CPR and AED training as well as a general orientation to the Fire Department. Afterward, students were assigned to various fire stations throughout the City. They rode on apparatus and worked along side Code Administration staff observing and learning the entire time. In addition to running emergency calls, the interns assisted in a number of administrative projects. This provided a balanced experience between day to day excitement in the field and with the



EXPENDABILITY

KIRK, SPOCK, MCCOY, AND ENSIGN RICKY ARE BEAMING DOWN TO THE PLANET. GUESS WHO'S NOT COMING BACK.

SAFETY, From Page 2.

page or a new era. By the time this article goes to press, the Health & Safety Unit will have experienced some new assignments and a new face. Captain Ross will take on the duties of Acting Battalion Chief of Health & Safety and Captain McMaster will assume the role of Shift Health & Safety Officer for the B-Shift.

With new faces in new places, I am looking forward to building upon and finding ways to improve the Health & Safety Unit. My years of service have always led me to believe that there is always room for improvement. That also goes for most everything in life. I personally feel a sense of renewal and a continued sense of optimism to do good work that builds upon the foundation of that, which is the Health & Safety Unit.

Having been operating as a Shift Health & Safety Officer since its inception, Chief Ross will maintain an understanding of our shift work even though she moves to day work. Captain McMaster will bring a fresh set of eyes to the SHSO position. Nothing like a fresh set of eyes to shine a light on needed changes or improvements. Both of these scenarios can only lend itself to renewed optimism and increased enthusiasm toward a better Health and Safety Unit.

Finally, the A-Shift will get to welcome Captain Gibbs to its work force. After a record long tenure as the Department's Health and Safety Officer, she's back on the front line again. Just to pass on some information, the word on the street is that the A-Shift Health & Safety Officer is tenacious. Unlike the picture on page 2, you will be expected to wear your seat belt. (OK, I photo shopped the seat belt out).

The Shift Health & Safety Officers' thank Captain Gibbs for seeing us into our infancy stage and on all the work she has done on health and safety matters over the past eight years. You only need to ask yourself one question; Did you leave the Health & Safety Office better than you found it? The answer is yes and that's all that matters!

Stay safe and healthy! 🚒

EMS, From Page 5.

in South Portland, Maine; Bennington, Vermont; or Paintsville, Kentucky. The cyclists then proceeded to their final destination at the Westin Hotel in the Carlyle Development. On May 22, the event organizers held closing ceremonies which recognized the tremendous contributions by all the participants, their sponsors and supporters.

In the end, National EMS Week was a big success, in large part by the many dedicated individuals that helped organize and participate in the many events throughout the week. 🚒

MOVE, From Page 1.

Assistant Chief Denise Pouget sums all this up by saying *"We are proud of our organization. Our goal is to continue to cultivate the profession by mentoring employees with less work experiences. By encouraging employees to enrich their work experiences we will create a positive and progressive work environment. In addition we will have an effective succession plan when our valued members retire."*

Once all these recruits complete their training and performance evaluations, staffing levels will become more normalized and the Department can move forward with other projects and initiatives. In the meantime, it will certainly be a challenging but exciting time for the Alexandria Fire Department. 🚒

The Surge

April saw a surge in people as the Department hired thirty-one new Firefighter Recruits. The new recruits reported for work on April 5. They all come from diverse backgrounds and bring a wide variety of skills and life experiences with them. According to staff at the Professional Development Center, all thirty one are doing well and scoring high on all their exams.

To assist with the monumental task of instructing the largest recruit school in the history of this Department, two adjunct instructors were hired to augment the PDC cadre.



Rodney White comes to us from Arlington County where he retired as a Lieutenant. Rodney spent 24 years with ACFD. During his time there he was a firefighter and paramedic. He is still currently certified as an EMT/P with the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Robert Stephan worked for 38 years with Montgomery County Fire Department. He retired at the rank of Battalion Chief. During his tenure with MCFD he oversaw Fire Operations, HazMat and the Fire Prevention Bureau. He was also involved with the EMS program in Montgomery County since its inception. He is a recognized authority and speaker on chemical and biological agents and weapons of mass destruction.



Both men bring a wealth of knowledge and experiences which will enrich the learning environment of our new recruits.

With a number of basic courses behind them, our recruits will begin night burn scenarios beginning in June. All their training will culminate in their graduation ceremony on September 3 at the Masonic Temple. 🚒

Not Ready for Prime Time

May 28 – It was lights, camera, and action as the TV crew from Thinkfilm™ and PBS Kids descended upon Station 202 and the Del Ray area to film several segments for the children's education program "Miss Rosa". "Miss Rosa" airs weekly on PBS Kids in between scheduled programs starting at 8:00am and ending by 10:00am. The programs are focused on extending the learning adventures of preschool children. PBS Kids promotes "Miss Rosa" as "is the lovable, bubbly, preschool teacher you always wanted! A teacher of Costa Rican and Puerto Rican descent, she is bilingual and very comfortably switches back and forth between English and Spanish. Miss Rosa helps young children navigate the world around them through art, song, dance, storytelling, humor and advice."

The character of Miss Rosa is played by Jennifer Peña, a former Florida certified teacher with classroom experience who is fluent in Spanish. In "Miss Rosa", Peña has been able to incorporate her love of teaching with her first love - acting. Peña also teaches Acting for Kids and Teens classes, which include private coaching and workshops. Ms. Peña began acting professionally at the age of 9 in



Actress and teacher Jennifer Peña portrays Miss Rosa on PBS Kids.



Captain Luis Santano (left) greets Miss Rosa (Jennifer Peña) and several children during filming at Station 202.

which she landed a role in the Touchstone film, "Ernest Saves Christmas." She has since had roles in several national commercials including Sea World and Universal Studios, television appearances on several Nickelodeon shows and was a host for Shamu TV.

On the 28th of May, the film crew shot segments inside the Wythe Street Post Office, Commerce Bank in Del Ray and finally at Station 202. Captain Santano and Firefighter Tara Blunt spoke about firefighters and their equipment. Tara donned her turnout gear and demonstrated how it worked for Ms. Peña and several other child actors. The afternoon filming provided an educational experience for preschoolers about firefighters and their equipment. While Luis and Tara may not be ready for prime time, they certainly did an outstanding job presenting a positive image of firefighters and the work they do.

That's a wrap! 🎬



Firefighter Tara Blunt and Captain Santano discuss the next scene with Miss Rosa.

Awards and Recognition

On May 18, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosted the 24th annual Valor Awards, which recognized public safety employees from Fire, Police and the office of the Sheriff for their outstanding performances that went above and beyond the call of duty over the past year.

Charles Mann, former Washington Redskin emceed the luncheon at the Hilton Mark Center. The 2010 Valor Awards recognized, 14 fire department members, 23 police officers and their three K-9 partners, one Police Emergency Communications Technician and one sheriff's deputy.

Gold Medal of Valor



Fire Chief Adam Thiel congratulates Firefighter Doug Townshend.

Firefighter Doug Townshend was the only recipient of the gold medal of valor for his heroic efforts on March 13, 2009, when he saw smoke coming from his brother Mike's house. Doug

forced entry into the home and was eventually able to save his brother who was trapped inside the home.

Bronze Medals of Valor and Life Saving Certificates

Fire Captain Doug McDaniel, Firefighters Anthony Kelly and Rick Muse, Paramedics Matthew Strauss and Timothy Malanka received a bronze medal of valor for their actions at a police incident on Waple Lane in Cameron Station that occurred on January 29, 2009.

Fire Inspector Wendy Baden received a bronze medal of valor for her actions in



Bronze medal winners Captain Doug McDaniel, Firefighters Anthony Kelly and Rick Muse, Paramedics Matthew Strauss and Timothy Malanka



diffusing a resident with a gun on February 17, 2009 during a re-inspection of a property located on Seminary Road.



Fire Chief Adam Thiel congratulates Inspector Baden.

Fire Captain Tony Washington and Firefighter Rich Pates received bronze medals of valor for their response to an automobile acci-

dent on I-395 on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Firefighter Anthony Kelly received the Life Saving Certificate for his efforts on the above incident.



Bronze medal winners Captain Tony Washington and firefighter Rich Pates. Life Saving Certificate winner Firefighter Anthony Kelly.

Firefighter Dale Barr received a bronze medal of valor and Fire Captain Kip Anderson, firefighter Chris Lockwood and EMS Supervisor Craig Youngdale received Life Saving Certificates for preventing a man from jumping from a second-story window on Monday, January 26, 2009.



Life Saving Certificate award winner Captain Kip Anderson (ret.), Bronze Medal winner Firefighter Dale Barr and Life Saving award winner Firefighter Chris Lockwood (ret.). Not pictured: EMS Supervisor Craig Youngdale (ret.)

Each of these recipients deserves thanks for their special efforts made during each of these incidents. Congratulations to all of our award recipients on jobs well done! 🚒

Former Washington Redskin Charles Mann served as emcee for the 24th Annual Valor Awards Ceremony.



Spring 2010 Communications Statistics (March through May)

| FIRE ALARM HEADQUARTERS CALLS PROCESSED | |
|--|--------|
| 911 | 3,375 |
| Administration Received | 13,732 |
| Administration Dialed | 5,193 |
| Dispatched Calls | 4,804 |
| Total calls | 27,104 |

Spring 2010 Run Statistics (March through May)

| | Unit | EMS | SUP | TOTAL | Current Yr | Previous Yr |
|----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------------|
| Station 201 | E201 | 97 | 205 | 302 | 548 | 1,439 |
| Station 202 | M202 | 456 | 126 | 582 | 924 | 2,250 |
| Station 203 | E203 | 143 | 163 | 306 | 524 | 1,212 |
| | T203 | 20 | 252 | 272 | 446 | 1,003 |
| Total | | 163 | 415 | 578 | 970 | 2,215 |
| Station 204 | E204 | 146 | 178 | 324 | 522 | 1,375 |
| | T204 | 23 | 169 | 192 | 395 | 1,451 |
| Total | | 169 | 347 | 516 | 917 | 2,826 |
| Station 205 | E205 | 214 | 301 | 515 | 836 | 2,105 |
| | M205 | 632 | 154 | 786 | 1,229 | 3,045 |
| Total | | 846 | 455 | 1,302 | 2,065 | 5,150 |
| Station 206 | E206 | 221 | 275 | 496 | 851 | 2,139 |
| | M206 | 586 | 146 | 732 | 1,184 | 2,863 |
| | R206 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 234 |
| Total | | 807 | 421 | 1,228 | 2,035 | 5,236 |
| Station 207 | E207 | 245 | 310 | 555 | 901 | 2,171 |
| | M207 | 520 | 120 | 640 | 1,007 | 2,523 |
| Total | | 765 | 430 | 1,193 | 1,908 | 4,694 |
| Station 208 | E208 | 383 | 408 | 791 | 1,249 | 2,944 |
| | M208 | 621 | 181 | 802 | 1,281 | 3,026 |
| | T208 | 66 | 339 | 405 | 636 | 1,465 |
| Total | | 1,070 | 928 | 1,998 | 3,166 | 7,435 |
| Station 209 | E209 | 136 | 213 | 349 | 581 | 1,440 |
| | H209 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 136 | 213 | 349 | 581 | 1,440 |
| Station totals | | 1,555 | 1,243 | 2,798 | 13,114 | 32,685 |

HOT Shots



Car into a house at Cameron Station



Mentor Day



Car fire on Virginia Avenue



Electrical Fire —on Herbert Street



Baskin Robbins Scoop Night



"I think we need the 'Wheel of Origin' on this one!"



Transportation Day at Tucker Elementary School.



"Got a little Captain in you?"



Fireworks and Fire Safety

Every year in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July with community parades, picnics, barbecues, and fireworks, the things of which happy memories are made. But sadly, every Independence Day also includes some tragic events. On average, 32,000 fires occur and 9,300 injuries result from fireworks according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and

the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Fifty-nine percent of fires caused by fireworks occur around the Independence Day holiday on July 4th. The safest way to enjoy them is through public displays conducted by professional pyrotechnicians hired by communities. Learning fireworks safety tips can help ensure that everyone has a happy and safe summer holiday.



FEMA

U.S. Fire Administration

For information and resources on this subject visit www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/focus